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Celebrating 15 Years

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY™

Strawberry Shortcake™

BALL • MEBBERSON

A Berry Big Anniversary

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IT WAS NICE TO SEE YOU AT THE CAFE AGAIN, SWEET AND SOUR GRAPES. READY FOR DESSERT?

I AM SO FULL...

THOSE SANDWICHES WERE REALLY BIG, STRAWBERRY. I DON'T THINK I COULD—

I UPDATED THE SEASONAL MENU...

OOOOOOOOOOO!

OOOOOOOOOOO!

WHAT IS *THIS*??

I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE TAKING A CHANCE WITH THE CHOCOLATE LAVA CAKE. THINK IT'S TOO CLICHÉ?

I BELIEVE MY SISTER IS REFERRING TO THE "BERRY BIG ANNIVERSARY CUPCAKE."

OH!

TOMORROW IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY I OPENED THE BERRY BITTY CAFE.

I JUST THOUGHT I WOULD OFFER SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE OCCASION.

IT'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO YOU AND ALL YOU'RE GOING TO DO IS BAKE A CUPCAKE?!

WELL, THEY *ARE* FILLED WITH BAVARIAN CREAM.

THAT IS SO UNDERWHELMING. FOR SOMETHING THIS BIG YOU HAVE TO *GO* BIG.

LIKE A PARTY RIGHT HERE IN THE CAFE!

I DON'T KNOW, SOUR. I KIND OF WANTED TO KEEP THINGS LOW-KEY THIS YEAR.

AFTER THE DOG PARK GRAND OPENING, FOUNDER'S DAY, AND THE BERRYKIN NURSERY FUNDRAISER I COULD USE A BREATHER.

I'M JUST NOT UP TO HOSTING A PARTY.

June

WELL, OF COURSE *YOU* SHOULDN'T PLAN A PARTY, STRAWBERRY.

THAT'S SILLY!

THAT'S WHAT YOUR *FRIENDS* ARE FOR!

ARE YOU SURE? TOMORROW IS REALLY SHORT NOTICE, MAYBE WE COULD SET IT FOR A LATER DATE...

June

WE COULDN'T DO THAT! IT WOULDN'T BE THE *SAME*.

SWEET IS RIGHT. HAS TO BE TOMORROW. IT'S NON-NEGOTIABLE.

AS SOON AS WE GET EVERYONE TOGETHER...

YOU WON'T HAVE A THING TO WORRY ABOUT!

...AND THANK YOU ALL AGAIN FOR COMING SO QUICKLY. IF WE KEEP THINGS ORGANIZED AND SPLIT UP THE WORK—

—WE'LL HAVE AN ANNIVERSARY PARTY BERRY BITTY CITY WILL NEVER FORGET!

HERE'S THE BREAKDOWN OF RESPONSIBILITIES—

—SWEET AND ORANGE BLOSSOM, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE INVITATIONS.

I HOPE MY BERRYKIN CONTACT LIST IS UP TO DATE...

BLUEBERRY MUFFIN AND CHERRY JAM ARE ON DECORATIONS.

MY EXCUSE TO MAKE CUT-PAPER STARS HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!

AND THE BAKING TEAM WILL BE—

I CAN HELP WITH THAT!

—PLUM PUDDING AND RASPBERRY TORTE.

BUT—

IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED— YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

WE ALL AGREED YOU DESERVED A REST...

"AND IF YOU'RE RESTING ANYWAY, MIGHT AS WELL DO IT AT THE LEMON SALON!"

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, LEMON MERINGUE. I COULD GET A TRIM, THEN A BLOW DRY...

AND A CURL, IF THERE'S TIME...

I WAS THINKING A SPECIAL EVENT LIKE THIS CALLS FOR SOMETHING A BIT MORE RADICAL. LIKE...

CHUNKY HIGHLIGHTS!

THAT ***DOES*** SEEM RADICAL. HAVE YOU DONE "CHUNKY" HIGHLIGHTS BEFORE?

LOTS OF TIMES!

WELL, MAYBE NOT ***LOTS*** LOTS OF TIMES. AT LEAST ONCE.

IT WAS ON A LADYBUG BUT SAME THING.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE COLOR OF THE MIX, IT ALWAYS CHANGES ONCE IT SETS.

HAVEN'T THOSE CUPCAKES FINISHED BAKING YET? WE NEED TO LOWER THE OVEN TEMPERATURE FOR THE MACARONS.

THIS BATTER IS TAKING FOREVER...

HOW'S IT GOING?

FINE!

THIS RECIPE LOOKS KIND OF COMPLICATED, RASPBERRY. HAVE YOU EVER MADE A MACARON BEFORE?

IT'S JUST EGG WHITES BEATEN, DYED, SIFTED, FOLDED, AND PIPED INTO PERFECT CIRCLES. HOW HARD COULD THAT BE?

SOUR! WE HAVE A PROBLEM...

ALMO FLOUR

REMEMBER HOW THE INSTRUCTIONS SAID TO FOLD THE PAPER FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, THEN CUT?

YEAH...

I THINK WE MISSED A STEP SOMEWHERE...

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MY NEW HIGHLIGHTS, LEMON! MAYBE I WAS OVERDUE FOR A CHANGE.

SEE, AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU TOOK MY ADVICE? NOW LET'S GET THE TOWEL OFF AND MAKE THE BIG REVEAL—

YIKES!!

DID YOU SAY "YIKES"? WHAT DOES "YIKES" MEAN?

JUST THAT I NEED TO EVEN THINGS OUT A LITTLE.

WE MIGHT BE LATE GETTING BACK TO THE CAFE BUT I'M SURE THEY CAN HANDLE THINGS WITHOUT US!

IF THE SMOKE ALARM GOES OFF, JUST IGNORE IT!

BUT WE'RE UP TO OUR KNEES IN PAPER!

IT'S OK CHERRY, ONLY A THOUSAND MORE TO GO...

-SOB-

HOW IS THE PARTY PLANNING GOING?

-GASP-

I KNOW, I KNOW.

RADICAL.

OH MY GOODNESS!
IT'S... MY FAVORITE COLOR?
I'LL FIX IT! WHEN IT'S SAFE TO COLOR IT AGAIN...
IN A WEEK OR TWO....
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING, CHERRY?
AN EPIC FAIL.
SWEET, DID YOU SEND OUT THE INVITATIONS?
WE SURE DID!
DID YOU USE THE RIGHT DISTRIBUTION LIST?
YES! I MEAN, WAIT...
THE "BERRY BEST BUDDIES" LIST, RIGHT?
NO, IT'S CALLED "FRIENDS IN BERRY BITTY CITY." "BERRY BEST BUDDIES" IS THE LIST YOU SEND CAT PICTURES TO.
WHO'S ON THE CAT PICTURE LIST?
ALL OF YOU, OF COURSE...
THE BERRYKINS, THE BUGS AT THE POST OFFICE, EVERYONE ELSE IN TOWN...
MY ONLINE BOOK CLUB, THE BIG APPLE CITY CHAPTER OF MY ONLINE BOOK CLUB...
A COUPLE OF HUNDRED PEOPLE, I GUESS... OR MORE?
OHHH-KAYYYY...

"WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE COMING, SO LET'S GET THIS PARTY TOGETHER—"

"EVEN IF IT TAKES US ALL NIGHT!"

AS DAY BREAKS...

HOOOONK SHUU

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

RUFF RUFF

RUFF RUFF

SNERK

ARE THEY HERE ALREADY?

BOSLEY BOOKWORM!?

WHAT?!

WHY ARE ALL OF YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT? IS MY BOW TIE UPSIDE-DOWN?

WHO CAN TELL?

WHERE'S EVERYBODY ELSE?

WHAT "EVERYBODY ELSE"? I'M HERE FOR MY MORNING TEA, AS USUAL.

ALONE, AS USUAL.

BUT DIDN'T YOU GET AN INVITATION IN YOUR EMAIL?

OH YES, THERE ***WAS*** AN INVITATION TO SOMETHING... AN ANNIVERSARY EVENT, I THINK—

—BUT ***THAT'S*** NOT UNTIL NEXT MONTH.

DIDN'T YOU SET THE DATE TO ***THIS*** MONTH?!

I THOUGHT ***YOU*** DID!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE, ANYWAY? SHOULD I COME BACK ANOTHER TIME?

HAHAHA HAHAHA HA

I HAVE ALL I NEED FOR THE PERFECT ANNIVERSARY RIGHT HERE.

WE STILL HAVE A HUGE PARTY TO HOST NEXT MONTH.

MAYBE WE SHOULD START PLANNING NOW.

HANG ON, I HAVE A VIDEO CHAT COMING IN...

IT'S HUCKLEBERRY PIE...

HI, BLUEBERRY! I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING BUT IT'S KIND OF LOUD WHERE YOU ARE...

IS THERE A PARTY GOING ON?

WAS HUCKLEBERRY ON THE "BERRY BEST BUDDIES" LIST?

HE'S NOT REALLY INTO CAT PICTURES...

ANYWAY, THERE'S THIS VIDEO THAT'S GOING VIRAL AND I REALLY THINK STRAWBERRY SHOULD SEE IT.

LIVE AUTHENTIC!

—VISIT MY ONLINE STORE AND GET AN OLD-FASHIONED HOMEMADE PIE DELIVERED STRAIGHT TO YOU—

—WITH SUPERIOR TASTE AND QUALITY TO THE BERRY BITTY CAFE, GUARANTEED!

YOOTQOBZ

WHO IS *THIS* GUY?

NO WORRIES. HE CAN SAY WHATEVER HE WANTS.

IF THE BERRY BITTY CAFE CAN MAKE IT THROUGH *THIS* ANNIVERSARY, IT HAS A BERRY BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD.

For More Berry Fun Stories
Ask Your Comic Book Store
for Issue #1!

Comic Books are in Stores Now!

Strawberry Shortcake

She is everybody's berry best friend. When she's not running her Berry Café in Berry Bitty City, she's hosting get-togethers with her friends or offering them help and advice. Her optimism is contagious and she always sees big possiblilities in everything–and everyone! With Strawberry Shortcake on your side... Anything is possible!

PUPCAKE is Strawberry Shortcake's loyal puppy who loves to play with everyone in Berry Bitty City.

CUSTARD is Strawberry Shortcake's purr-fect pet kitty. She's cuddly, sweet, and absolutely adorable!

Lemon Meringue

She is an expert with a comb and blow-dryer. She runs the Lemon Salon where all the girls get their hair styled. Lemon is very fun to be around and loves to keep everyone up to date on what's happening in Berry Bitty City.

Lemon's spaniel puppy, who loves getting her long hair styled in Lemon's salon.

Cherry Jam

She is Berry Bitty City's most famous resident pop star! When the singing superstar is offstage, her cheery charm helps her fit right in as the town's favorite music teacher, voice coach, and all-around fabulous friend!

She is Cherry Jam's Dalmation. She loves to howl and bark along with Cherry as she sings. They are quite the entertaining pair!

Orange Blossom

She is Berry energetic and is all about solving problems with a smile. She runs Orange Mart, a little store that holds everything you could ever need. Orange loves being helpful and always puts everyone in a good mood.

She is the greeter in Orange's store. Orange often has her hands full trying to corral the pup, whose playful mischievousness is the complete opposite of the organized, orderly way in which Orange runs the store.

Blueberry Muffin

She is super smart and knows something about everything. She runs Berry Bitty City's bookstore and loves to read about how things work and grow. Her best buds know she's always there for them—a true-blue friend to the end.

He is an especially smart collie with a particularly good nose for tracking and finding things—a talent that endears him to his owner, mystery novel lover, Blueberry.

Plum Pudding

She is always on the move and seems to hear a happy dance beat wherever she goes. She's a great dancer who teaches all styles of dance at her Sweet Beats Studio. Plum's kind heart and quirky ways make her a favorite friend in Berry Bitty City.

He is a perfect match for Plum. This terrier's exuberant energy is a great complement to Plum's dancing.

Raspberry Torte

Super-stylish, she loves giving fashion advice to all the girls in Berry Bitty City. She even owns and runs Fresh Fashions, a very trendy boutique.

Raspberry's friends know they can always count on her for the berry latest styles– and true friendship, too!

She is fashion-designer Raspberry's Chihuahua. In addition to modeling Raspberry's latest dog fashions, her miniature size makes her a perfect fit to be carried around in Raspberry's purse.

Sweet Grapes & Sour Grapes

Although they are twin sisters, they couldn't be more different!

Sweet is the nicest person ever, with her lighthearted, friendly personality. Sour likes to spice things up with her realistic and zesty attitude! Together the sisters run a food truck. They're both fun and funny in their own special ways, which makes hanging out with them such a good time!

Apple Dumplin'

She is Strawberry's cousin who just moved to Berry Bitty City. She's a world traveler and resident blogger. She just loves adventure, and she always has an exciting story to share from all the places she's visited!

Tea Time Turtle

He is Apple's travel companion and best little bud. He may be quiet and small, but he's a great big help with anything Apple needs!